

Conservative Spending Plan Makes 'Cents'

by Rep. Sue Myrick, North Carolina District 9



As I look over the past budget year, I'm very proud that conservatives stood their ground and have begun to put a lid on spending. When Congress spends more tax dollars than it receives, individuals and families are the ones who begin to feel the burden, not the government.

Americans deserve to have a Congress that

looks at the federal budget like normal Americans look at their household budgets.

At the beginning of 2004, we drafted a budget that placed a freeze on discretionary spending, and we worked hard to keep spending at those levels. I believe that we now have a strong foundation to begin making further cuts to get us back to a balanced budget as we had in 1997.

The main solution to stopping runaway spending and balancing the budget is eliminating wasteful programs and cutting overall government spending. It is easy to identify the problems, but the solutions are not so easy to accomplish. Washington is positioned to spend your money; not save it. Our goal is to change the appropriations process itself.

In 2005, conservatives will put pressure on our colleagues to stick to a tight budget and not spend over the limits we have set. We will fight to keep the spending bills from being rolled into an omnibus bill which only increases spending through "pork projects." And we will work hard to put a lid on spending by eliminating the waste, fraud, and abuse we find in the government.

I am hopeful that 2005 will be the year we can take positive steps toward controlling federal spending. We can no longer afford to spend what we do not have. We must, and will, put a lid on spending in 2005.

ACU 'Raises the Roof' in Historic Alexandria

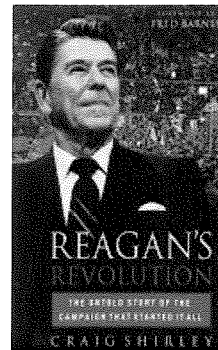
Though ACU Headquarters had weathered many storms, the time finally came late this fall to replace the roof on both ACU and the ACU Foundation. According to the City of Alexandria, our buildings date back to the early 1840s. If you'd like to "sponsor a shingle" and help us preserve one of the city's antebellum landmarks, we would appreciate contributions toward ACU's ongoing building projects.



On a brisk November day, workers remove the old roof at ACU headquarters and replace it with new wood shakes.

Reagan's Revolution

ACU board member **Craig Shirley** has written what will undoubtedly become the most detailed account of one of the most important, yet overlooked parts of presidential history-- Ronald Reagan's campaign for president in 1976. Read about ACU's key role in Reagan's vital North Carolina primary win. And hear from Reagan aide David Keene about life on the campaign trail.



Reagan's Revolution will be available on January 27, 2005.

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Craig Shirley is the president of Shirley & Banister Public Affairs, a prestigious conservative public relations agency located just outside of Washington, DC.